environment). Interestingly, people did not know the sex of the specimen in the majority of cases (69%). When asked to identify *L. cervus*, male stag beetles were the most common answer but represented by less than a third of the total answers (29%) but it was nearly three times more often than the females (11%). The two most incorrect answers were the cockchafer *Melolontha melolontha* (L.) and the rose chafer *Cetonia aurata* (L.) (18% each), while *D. parallelipipedus* was chosen in 8% of the cases. Nearly 50% thought that stag beetles were common in England (25% had no idea), and none considered it endangered or protected. In terms of local distribution 60% had no idea, 20% thought the species was rare and 20% common. However, the results of such a small public survey should not be considered as concrete evidence that the females are more targeted than the males.

It is hard to assess the overall effect of pedestrians on urban population of stag beetles. Other human activities such as cars or even grass mowing equipments (Jones, 2001) are known to kill stag beetles; and there is little doubt that the biggest damage is done through the destruction of suitable habitats. Unlike cars or machinery, this loss of beetles could easily be reduced through education leading to a better recognition of the species. – MARC E. MIQUEL, 7 Albert Road, St Mary Cray, Orpington BR5 4AF. (marc.miquel@kcl.ac.uk)

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The recent occurrence of *Sturmia bella* (Meigen) (Diptera: Tachinidae) in south-west England, including rearings from two host species of Nymphalidae. – In late summer 2003 I reared five examples of a tachinid fly which I could not identify using the Royal Entomological Society key of Belshaw (1993). I sent two specimens (♀, ♂) to the Natural History Museum whereupon Nigel Wyatt determined them as *Sturmia bella* (Meigen). These two examples are now in the Natural History Museum collection. This parasitoid fly was first recorded from the UK from Hampshire in July 1998, a male being reared from a pupa of *Inachis io* (L.) (Ford *et al.*, 2000).

Collection details: six larvae of *Aglais urticae* (L.) (Nymphalidae) were collected on 3.viii.2003 in a field amongst farmland, Dawlish, Devon (SX 9577). One of these produced two ♂♂ *bella* adults early ix.2003; a second individual (as a pupa) gave one ♀ *bella*, also early ix.2003.

Seven larvae of *Polygonia c-album* (L.) (Nymphalidae) were collected on 25.viii.2003 from *Ulmus* on a cliff-top path, Dawlish (SX 9777). One of these gave, from the pupa, two larvae of *S. bella* (tachinid larvae appearing 29 and 30.viii), with two adults (♀♂) hatching on 12.ix.2003.

The next encounter with *S. bella* occurred on 24.vii.2004, when I captured three ♂♂ on flowers of *Pastinaca sativa* (L.) (Wild Parsnip) at Studland, Dorset.

On 29.vii.2004 I collected 28 almost full-grown larvae of *A. urticae* at Dawlish (SX 9577) two fields away from where the first sample was collected in 2003. I had noted these as very young larvae on 17.vii.2004 but declined to take them at this stage. The larvae were divided into two batches of 14, five of one batch died from unspecified causes; of the remaining, 22 pupated over the period 1–3.viii.2004. All 22 pupae gave *S. bella* larvae. The remaining host larva yielded five slightly smaller tachinid pupae; three of these were of *S. bella*.

The tachinid maggots all appeared 4–5.viii.2004; as they emerged from the suspended host pupae they provided a glistening impermanent 'thread' which seemed to assist their descent from the *urticae* pupae.

The 22 *A. urticae* pupae produced 23 *bella* larvae (so, as in 2003, one pupa yielded two *bella* larvae). The incidence (rare, apparently) of multiple occupancy of *S. bella* in a host was further confirmed when three of the five tachinid pupae ex. the *urticae* larva yielded *bella* adults; a fourth pupa produced a ♀ *Phryxe* sp. [either *P. vulgaris* (Fallén) or *P. magnicornis* (Zetterstedt) (Tachinidae)]. The fifth pupa has (so far) failed to hatch. All the tachinid adults were bred 12–13.viii.2004.

A total of 26 *bella* adults were bred: 10 ♀♀, 16 ♂♂ including 1 ♀, 2 ♂♂ from one *A. urticae* larva.

The high rate of parasitism (23 of the 23 surviving larvae) may have implications for local populations of selected nymphalids.

The details above provide the first known records for *S. bella* in Dorset and Devon. Additional records are cited below:

Six larvae of *P. c-album* collected on 2.vi.2004, Dawlish (SX 9777) failed to yield *bella* (all produced butterflies); I was unable to find any second brood *P. c-album* larvae at this site. Thirty larvae of *Inachis io* (L.) collected in the same locality on 2.vi.2004, gave either butterflies (~50%) or a *Phobocampe* sp. (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae).

During August–October 2004 I encountered several more adults of *S. bella*, all female. Two of these records (*) were from new localities. The species is evidently on the wing well into the autumn and is obviously well established in South Devon.

Collection details: all 2004, Devon. All single captures unless indicated.

*Little Haldon (SX 9376) 31.viii.–laneside herbage near moorland. *Newton Abbot (SX 8572) 1.ix.–amongst nettle on a shaded path on semi-marshland. Dawlish (SX 9777): 2.ix (2♀♀); 7.ix (2♀♀), 30.ix., 7.x, and 8.x (all around nettles on a cliff-top path along which elm grows). Dawlish (SX 9577): 19.ix.–amongst nettle from where parasitised *A. urticae* larvae had been found.

All of the above adults were easy to capture: no net was necessary. It is interesting to speculate how *S. bella* overwinters. It gains entry to its hosts by laying ova on foodplants: these are swallowed by the host larva and hatch in the gut (Herting, 1960). Larvae of its above nymphalid hosts are unavailable until spring. A published record (Chandler *et al.*, 2001) refers to a male *S. bella* being reared from *Pararge aegeria* (L.) [Nymphalidae] in March–the host pupa being found in February.

The author is indebted to Nigel Wyatt, of the Natural History Museum, for determining the original specimens, and for describing how to recognise future examples. Additional information provided by Nigel Wyatt, Matt Smith and Peter Chandler is gratefully acknowledged.

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Records of Hemiptera from England in 2001–3.—This note summarises records of scarce Hemiptera from Southern England in 2001–3, including some new Vice-County records.

South Hampshire (VC11) Two males of *Calligypona reyi* (Fieber) (Delphacidae) were swept from *Scirpus* and *Juncus* with *Paralimnus phragmitis* (Boheman) (Cicadellidae) in a marshy area behind a belt of stable shingle at Gilkicker Point (SZ6097), 2.viii.2002; new to Hampshire. **West Sussex** (VC13) Adult *Pediopsis tiliae* (Germar) (Cicadellidae) on large isolated *Tilia* × *vulgaris*, and *Raptalus panzeri* Löw (Cixiidae), abundant in open deer grazed parkland pasture, Petworth Park (SU9622), vii–viii.2001. **Surrey** (VC17) *R. panzeri*, several in revegetating pit, Holmethorpe Sandpits (TQ2951), 14.vii.2001. *Asiraca clavicornis* (F.) (Delphacidae) abundant on a flower rich bank, Wimbledon Common (TQ2272), on 18.vi.2001. **Berkshire** (VC22) *P. tiliae* on mature lime *T.* × *vulgaris*, at Burghfield Mill (SU6770) on vi–vii.2003. *Euscelidius variegatus* (Ribaut) (Cicadellidae) at light trap, Sheffield Bottom (SU6569) on 7.viii.2003. According to Kirby (1992) this species is restricted to the coastal counties along the south coast and Yorkshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, with no previous Berkshire records. *Macrosteles quadripunctulatus* (Kirschbaum) (Cicadellidae) in MV light-trap at Sheffield Bottom (SU6569) on 7.viii.2003. According to Kirby (1992), only known from six sites, including Silwood Park in Berkshire. Two males of *Ribautodelphax angulosus* (Ribaut) (Delphacidae) were swept from dry grassland at Field Farm (SU6770) close to the River Kennet, on 15.vii.2003. **Mid-West Yorkshire** (VC64) Two males of *Calligypona reyi* (Fieber) (Delphacidae) were swept from *Juncus* in a marshy area on the site once occupied by Fryston Main Colliery (SE4426) on 4.vi.2004; new to Yorkshire. A large reed bed on the site also supported *Chloriona dorsata* Edwards and *C. glaucescens* Fieber (Delphacidae).—Jonty Denton, Kingsmead, Wield Road, Medstead, Hampshire GU34 5NJ.

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Southern bush-cricket *Meconema meridionale* Costa (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae) in Kent.—On 6.ix.2005 a male *Meconema meridionale* was found on a tomato plant growing against the south facing wall of the author's house in Gravesend Kent TQ6773. This was the only specimen found. The bush-cricket was readily identified by reference to Hawkins, 2001, *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History*, **14**: 207–213. The male cerci are distinctive. Hawkins (op. cit.) details the first British records of this species found in 2001 in Surrey and Berkshire. Whether the Kent specimen represents a further consolidation of the range of this species, or another introduction, is unknown.—M. T. Jennings, 206 Lower Higham Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2NN.